

Written Testimony – Senate Bill 1125
House Commerce Committee
Tuesday, December 5, 2006

I am **Mary Wilson**, an original founding member of the world famous group '**THE SUPREMES**'.

The 'Supremes' were a Detroit Michigan based group that became famous in the early sixties...**10 million selling number one hits**, with five of those being consecutive number one records. The 'Supremes', just like the '**Beatles**' took the world by storm at a time when the ladies were not even considered citizens here in the United States. They '**Dared to Dream**' and made those dreams come true; it was an impossible dream. The legacy that these three young ladies started in 1964 is still being talked about today. There is a movie being made about our lives as we speak, called '**Dreamgirls**'. **I will be attending the Dreamgirls premier next week.**

They say that imitation is the best form of flattery, but these new performing groups are doing more than imitating. They have taken over the images and the names of their favorite stars. It is a clear case of stolen identity, and there are no laws to stop these people.

I cannot be with you today in person to testify due to the short notice. However, please let me state here a few of my personal encounters with these fake-ersatz, performing groups. In the course of twenty years I have spent millions in the court system trying to stop these impostors; however they just keep coming back. One of these groups even accepted a life-time achievement award as the Supremes for keeping the music alive. These groups blatantly use false advertisements saying that they are the Supremes when not one of them has ever been under a Motown recording contract. Last year, I had to pay one of these groups a sum of money that was over \$90,000.00. Many other artists such as Carl of the Coasters, and Herb Reed of the original Platters have put out tremendous amounts of money trying to keep their legacies from being stolen. We need a law so that we can spend our life-long savings on our families and grandchildren.

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 1125, the 'Truth In Music' legislation.